DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 306 860 HE 022 584

TITLE	Minorities Access to Research Careers.
INSTITUTION	American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Washington, D.C.; City Univ. of New York, N.Y. Hunter Coll.
SPONS AGENCY	National Inst. of Mental Health (DHEW), Rockville, Md.
PUB DATE	Aug 89
GRANT	442457
NOTE	10p.; This report is one of a group gathered by the AASCU/ERIC Model Programs Inventory Project, funded by the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education to the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, in collaboration with the ERIC Clearinghouse on Higher Education. For related documents, see HE 022 565-617, HE 022 619-643 and HE 022 645-659.
PUB TYPE	Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Access to Education; Alcohol Abuse; American Indians; Asian Americans; Blacks; *Career Awareness; College Students; Drug Abuse; Females; Graduate Study; Higher Education; Hispanic Americans; Mental Health; *Minority Groups; Models; Program Descriptions; Research Methodology; *Research Skills; State Colleges
IDENTIFIERS	*AASCU ERIC Model Programs Inventory Project; *City University of New York Hunter College; Minorities Access to Research Careers Program

ABSTRACT

The Minorities Access to Research Careers (MARC) program at Hunter College, New York is designed to provide an in-depth 2-year research training experience for minority students in order to prepare them for graduate school and eventual research careers in alcohol, drug abuse, and mental health fields. The target groups include Blacks, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Native Americans, and most participants are women. Specific goals associated with this program include: to offer a curriculum familiarizing MARC students with the basic assumptions, principles, and research methodology of their major disciplines; to provide the necessary skills to evaluate critically a body of literature in a particular research area; and to enable them to design, conduct, and statistically evaluate experiments that test specific hypotheses in a particular research area. A full 2-year commitment to the program is required, and during these 2 years, students receive mentoring from a researcher in anthropology, psychology, and/or sociology. Ten schools in the United States offer MARC programs, five of them historically black colleges. A copy of the spring colloquium schedule and an announcement for a discussion group on career psychology of minority scholars are appended. (SM)

ED306860

Cover Page

Title of Project:
Minorities Access to Research Careers

Name of Institution:
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Departments of Anthropology, Psychology, Sociology

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Funding Agency:
National Institute of Mental Health
Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration

Grant Number:
442457

Date:
1981-current

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AASCU/ERIC Model Programs Inventory Project

The AASCU/ERIC Model Programs Inventory is a two-year project seeking to establish and test a model system for collecting and disseminating information on model programs at AASCU-member institutions--375 of the public four-year colleges and universities in the United States.

The four objectives of the project are:

- To increase the information on model programs available to all institutions through the ERIC system
- To encourage the use of the ERIC system by AASCU institutions
- To improve AASCU's ability to know about, and share information on, activities at member institutions, and
- To test a model for collaboration with ERIC that other national organizations might adopt.

The AASCU/ERIC Model Programs Inventory Project is funded with a grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education to the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, in collaboration with the ERIC Clearinghouse on Higher Education at The George Washington University.

Abstract

The objectives of the MARC program is to provide an in-depth two year research training experience for students in order to prepare them for graduate school and eventual research careers in alcohol, drug abuse, and mental health fields. Recruitment of applicants for MARC scholars is from a population that includes Hunter College sophomores and City University of New York community college sophomores. Students majoring in Anthropology, Psychology, and Sociology participate in this program. The specific goals associated with this program include:

1. to provide a curriculum to familiarize MARC students with the basic assumptions, principles, and research methodology of their major disciplines;
2. to provide an optional interdisciplinary minor to familiarize more students with differences and similarities of the various research strategies in the participating disciplines and to provide them with a broader perspective than that acquired with any one of the disciplines alone;
3. to provide the MARC students with the skills necessary to evaluate critically a body of literature in a particular research area;
4. to enable MARC student to design, conduct, and statistically evaluate experiments that test specific hypothesis in a particular research area;
5. to train MARC students to communicate their experimental findings both in an appropriate written format and by oral presentation in Honors seminars, at professional meetings, and in professional journals;
6. to provide MARC students with specialized seminars and colloquia conducted by leading minority researchers on topics relating to alcoholism, drug abuse, and mental health;
7. to provide MARC students with "hands on" research experience by having them directly participate in research under the sponsorship of a mentor during the two years in the program. In addition, ten weeks during the summer is spent in a different laboratory outside the home campus;
8. to provide an intersession "mini course" of several weeks' duration taught by a leading minority scholar. Chosen topics are of broad interest to the students and involve a critique of research methodology in a particular area.

Introduction

The Minorities Access to Research Careers Program, supported by the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration provides undergraduate minority students who are interested in pursuing research careers with the research experience, mentoring, and training that will allow them to pursue these careers. This program began in 1979 and is funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. The target groups of the MARC program include Blacks, Hispanics, Asian American, and Native Americans. Most of the participants in this program are women.

MARC scholars are selected at participating colleges through a competitive process. Selection is based on evaluation of each applicant's grade point average, recommendations from faculty members, demonstrated interest in a research career at the Ph.D. level, and a personal interview. Students apply to the MARC program during the spring semester prior to their junior year in college. A full two year commitment to the MARC program is required. During these two years MARC students receive mentoring from a researcher in anthropology, psychology, and/or sociology who provides research and training.

Ten schools in the United States offer MARC programs. Five of these colleges are historically Black colleges. All of the ten schools serve populations of Black, Hispanic, Asian, and/or Native American students. Each program is interdisciplinary. Schools participating in this program are listed below.

Atlanta University Center

California State University-Dominquez Hills

Grambling State University

Howard University

Hunter College

Jackson State University

New Mexico Highlands University

SUNY/College at Old Westbury

Tuskegee University

Wayne State University

Hunter College began its program in 1981 and it currently

funds nine MARC scholars. Currently Michele Paludi is its Project Coordinator and Gordon Barr the Project Director. In addition, four individuals also comprise the Steering Committee of the Program: Pamela Stone Cain (Department of Sociology), Darlene C. DeFour (Department of Psychology), Charles Green (Department of Sociology), and Louise Lennihan (Department of Anthropology).

MARC students at Hunter College have participated in several national and regional conventions, including: Annual MARC symposium, Annual Hunter College Psychology Convention, Annual Eastern Psychological Association Convention. Students have also published with their mentors in journals such as American Journal of Psychology.

Another objective of the MARC program is to promote involvement of as many students as possible with the program. To additional categories of membership have thus been established: MARC Associates and MARC Affiliates. MARC Associates are students (1) who are academically qualified to be Scholars but for whom there are no stipends available or (2) are still in their first year or are sophomores but show promise of being mainstreamed into the program when they reach their junior year, or (3) are academically qualified but do not meet citizenship requirements. MARC Affiliates are students not described by the above information who wish to attend program events, receive guidance from program personnel, but do not receive laboratory placement or follow the MARC curriculum.

Graduates of Hunter's MARC Program have are pursuing graduate careers at Syracuse University, the City University of New York Graduate Center, University of Maryland, Yale University, and University of Michigan. Fields of specialization include cultural anthropology, medicine, demography, molecular genetics, biopsychology, anthropology.

Description of Program

Target Population: Minority Undergraduate Students

Focus of Program: To provide extensive research experience to prepare students for a career at the Ph.D. level.

Staffing of Program: Project Director, Project Coordinator, Steering Committee from Departments of Anthropology, Psychology, and Sociology

Funding Information: National Institute of Mental Health

Appendices

MARC

TO: MARC Community

FROM: Michele Paludi

Spring Colloquium Schedule

1989

All meetings will take place in Room 626 Hunter North from 2 - 4.

February
15 Organizational Meeting and Discussion of MARC Convention

March
1 Minority Women's Mental Health Issues

Participants Include:

Rosa Gil, Association of Hispanic Mental Health Professionals

Doris Koo, Asian Americans for Equality

15 Presentation for MARC Convention

29 Dean Harrison, CUNY Graduate Center Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, " How to apply to graduate school "

April
5 Workshop on Graduate School Applications

Participants:

Louise Lennihan
Charles Green
Gordon Barr
Myrna Fader

26 Career Psychology Issues

Participants include faculty and MARC graduates

May
10 Reception and End of Year Celebration

MINORITIES ACCESS TO RESEARCH CAREERS PROGRAM

of

HUNTER COLLEGE

announces:

IN OUR OWN VOICES: CAREER PSYCHOLOGY OF MINORITY SCHOLARS

A Conversation Hour with:

Marilyn Daley-Weston
Darlene C. DeFour
Miriam Delgado
Jorges Fuentes
Ruby Tsang
Karen Wyche

Date: December 7, 1988
Time: 2-4
Place: 626 Hunter North

The Hunter College Community is invited to attend

For more information, contact:
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